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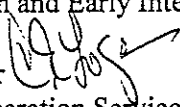
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Institutions of Higher Education and Directors of Special Education

FROM: Jacquelyn J. Thompson, Director
Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services

Carolyn E. Logan, Director 
Office of Professional Preparation Services

SUBJECT: Student Teaching/Practicum Requirements for Teachers Under Temporary Approval

The Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services (OSE/EIS) has received a number of inquiries regarding the student teaching/practicum requirement for teachers who are employed under temporary approval by the OSE/EIS. This correspondence is intended to clarify the issue.

Rule 340.1783 of the Revised Administrative Rules for Special Education permits the OSE/EIS to grant temporary special education approval to persons, "...who, at a minimum, have completed one-half of the course requirements for a major in a specific impairment area. Continuation of temporary approval shall be dependent upon the satisfactory completion of not less than 6 semester or 9 term hours, or equivalent, or required credit toward full approval before the beginning of the next school year that the teacher is employed in a special education area."

In addition to the required course work, teachers seeking an additional endorsement in any area of special education are also required to complete a student teaching or practicum experience in the area in which they seek to become endorsed.

Regarding the student teaching or practicum experience, the Department of Education will allow a teacher who is employed **under a temporary special education approval** to complete the student teaching or practicum experience requirement while employed in the paid teaching assignment for which he/she is approved. However, this arrangement is an option which is offered at the discretion of the college or university. More specifically, each institution determines the criteria/conditions under which the student teaching or practicum experience for special education endorsement can be completed, and whether or not it can be completed within or outside of the paid teaching assignment.

Questions regarding the arrangements for the student teaching or practicum experience for special education endorsements should be directed to the college or university.

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